

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 10-27 and 29-35 are pending in the application, with claims 10, 18, and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 10-12, 14-16, 18, 21, 22, 24, 26, 29-32, 34, and 35 are sought to be amended. Claim 1-9 and 28 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to any cancelled or amended claims, in the future. These changes and additions introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Kevin Bates for the courtesies extended during a telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives on December 16, 2008 and December 19, 2008. During the interviews, Applicants' representatives discussed why the previously pending claims distinguished over the applied references and discussed proposed claim amendments, similar to the above amendments, with the Examiner. The Examiner implied that the above amendments to the independent claims most likely would overcome the rejections, but the Examiner noted a full argument for same was required, and an updated search would need to be performed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10-27 and 29-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,757,920 to Misra *et al.* ("Misra") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,212,561 to Sitaraman *et al.* ("Sitaraman"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Although Applicants believe there are patentable differences between previously pending independent claims 10, 18, and 21 and the applied references, for other reasons, and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 10, 18, and 21. Claims 10, 18, and 21, as amended, recite, among other features, *“upon receiving an access request from the user to access the second server machine, **disconnecting the user from the first connection before establishing a second connection that allows the user to access the second server machine,**”* or similar respective language.

The Examiner, on pages 2 and 3 of the Final Office Action (“the Office Action”), states:

Misra does not explicitly indicate preventing access to a first one of the first and the second server machine while the user is accessing a second one of the first and the second server machine; wherein the user is disconnected from the first one of the first and the second server machine before being connected to the second one of the first and the second server machine.

To cure this deficiency, the Examiner, on page 3 of the Office Action, relies on Sitaraman (Sitaraman at Col. 6, Lines 18-21 and Col. 7, Lines 8-23) to allegedly show this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Assuming *arguendo* that it is proper to combine these references in the manner suggested, which Applicants do not acquiesce, Sitaraman teaches a method and an

apparatus to force authorized users to disconnect from any open connections to other domains or networks before a connection with another, e.g., private, domain or network can be established by alerting the user of the mandatory requirement to disconnect from these open connections (Sitaraman Abstract). Sitaraman teaches that when a user attempts to access a private network domain, if the user has then-existing connections a Service Selection Gateway informs the user that the user must close these connections before proceeding with a connection to the desired private domain network (Sitaraman Col.7, Line 8-23). Therefore, Sitaraman teaches that *the user will be informed* of the then-existing connections and *the user is forced to close the connections itself*. In contrast to what is taught in Sitaraman, claims 10, 18, and 21, as amended, recite, among other features *upon receiving an access request from the user to access the second server machine, disconnecting the user from the first connection before establishing a second connection that allows the user to access the second server machine*, or similar language.

Therefore, because Sitaraman fails to teach or suggest at least the above noted features of claims 10, 18, and 21, Sitaraman cannot be used to cure the deficiencies of Misra. Thus, the applied references cannot be used to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 10, 18, and 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection, and find claims 10, 18, and 21 allowable over the applied references. Also, at least based on their respective dependencies to claims 10, 18, and 21, claims 11-17, 19-20, 22-27, and 29-35 should be found allowable over the applied references, as well as for their additional distinguishing features.

Reply to Office Action of October 10, 2008

HILDEBRAND *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/076,181

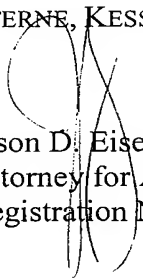
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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